



Maskwacis Education Schools Commission

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING NOTES

DATE:	April 8, 2025	
START TIME:	1:08 pm	
END TIME:	5: 54 pm	
LOCATION:	MESC Governance & Training Centre	
CHAIR:	Dr. Shauna Bruno	
MESC BOARD:	<div> <div> Allison Adams-Bull Carmella Cutknife Azure Johnson (left 5:10 pm) Bruce Littlechild Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose (left 5:45 pm) John Nepoose </div> <div> Debra Strongman- Omeasoo Elliott Young Cllr. Jason Makinaw (Google Meet - arrived 1:30 pm) Cllr. Izaiah Omeasoo (Google Meet - left 2:30 pm) Cllr. Clainia Potts (Google Meet) </div> </div>	
STAFF:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester	
RECORDER:	Jenn Nepoose	

1. ADOPT AGENDA

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DECISION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Table EL-4 monitoring report to May Board meeting. - Moved by Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, seconded by Bruce Littlechild, all in favour.

2. ADOPT MARCH 11, 2025 MEETING NOTES

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS:	"2. March 11, 2025 Meeting Notes.pdf" "2. March 11, 2025 Special Meeting Notes.pdf"
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business arising from March 11, 2025 Regular Board meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarification on Board PD honoraria rates. Increased due to inflation. - Business arising from the March 11, 2025 special Board meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 proposals were reviewed with the Task Force. - Discussion was focused on the two proposals that scored the highest based on the approved criteria. - Discussion on developing a procurement policy. Need for supporting Maskwacisak and building capacity. - Suggestion to review relevant Board policies that provide direction to administration for administrative procedures. - Concern about Board decisions being rushed. - Recommendation to hold special Board meetings to discuss major decisions. - Request for report on the number of contracts, number of contracts are granted to non Maskwacisak and how administrative procedures are

	adhered to.
	- Add EL-5 monitoring report to the June Board meeting. Prepare a report on procurement procedure, activities and alignment.
DECISION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt March 11 Regular Board notes. Moved by Debra Strongman-Omeasoo, seconded by Elliott Young, all in favour - Adopt March 11 Special Board. Moved by Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, seconded by Carmella Cutknife, all in favour.

3. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
DOCUMENTS:	"3. Superintendent Update - April 2025.pdf"
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request has been submitted to Fish and Wildlife for grad eagle feathers. Can discuss alternatives with the Circle of Elders. - The new Nehiyawatiwin Coordinator will be facilitating land-based PD with the Counsellors. - Learning Services is providing training for archery. - The Curriculum team will be receiving an award for their work with Augustana, workshops and developing resources. - Contact Harper Potts with concerns about dogs in Samson.

4. ITEMS FOR DECISION

A. Circle of Parents Handbook and Engagement Plan

TIME:	15 min
PRESENTER:	Azure Johnson and Carmella Cutknife
DOCUMENTS:	"4. A. DRAFT Circle of Parents Handbook.pdf" "4. B. 2025 - 2026 COP Engagement Plan.pdf"
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarification on how the Circle of Parents (COP) are involved in 2.1.5. - Discussion on how the Circle of Parents functions connect with Board priorities through the Parent Board representatives and the Parental Advisory Committees (PAC). - Goal is for Circle of Parents to align engagement, messaging and connection with parents across all MESC schools. - PACs and COP can recommend activities such as cultural camps. - Goal of the Circle of Parents to build relationships between parents and the school. Objectives include connecting schools with Maskwacisak - The handbook requires Board approval. The COP will develop engagement plans annually based on the guidelines identified in the handbook. - Opportunity for the Board to communicate priorities and recommendations through the parent representatives.
DECISION:	Circle of Parents Handbook approved. Motion 2025-26/2025-04-08/214. Moved by Elliott Young, seconded by Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, all in favour, motion carried,

5. BOARD EDUCATION, PRESENTATIONS, AND DISCUSSION

A. Quarterly Finance Report

TIME: 10 min

PRESENTER: Trina Vy

DOCUMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION:

- Interest earned is reported from September - March.
- Changes in economy will not significantly effect MESC assets.
- Expenses in the summer include fixed expenses such as utilities, telephone, payroll, etc.
- School supplies are included in school budgets. All supplies are ordered in June. Any damaged supplies are returned.
- Expenses are currently lower than projected.
- A lot of items and services are expensed in the spring, near the end of the school year.
- Will be changing the internal fiscal year to April - March. An internal fiscal year of September - August had implications on financial procedures and caused confusion when tracking budgets.
- Will be presenting projections for the remaining 3 years of the agreement.
- Working with ISC for them to abide by the agreement and MESC's unique funding model.
- State the quarter on future reports.
- Some areas will have surplus, not anticipating spending more than overall budget.
- There was an overpayment to the bussing contractor, expecting repayment in the coming months.
- Executive will be analyzing financial forecasts and assessing organizational structure and support for students.
- Salary grid changes will take effect next pay period. Can assess the teacher salary grid next year.
- Grad laptops will be expensed from student bursaries.
- Student scholarships will be awarded at this year's graduation.
- Approximately \$20,000 remaining in the Board PD budget until August 31, 2025. Expenses for the Hawaii International Conference on Education were lower and anticipated.

B. 2025 - 2026 School Calendar

TIME: 10 min

PRESENTER: Tracy Swampy-Sylvester

DOCUMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION:

- There is a fall break from November 7 - 11 in the 2025-2026 school year.
- Executive is discussing instructional hours, comparing MESC needs to provincial requirements.
- There will be a presentation on the MESC curriculum in June.
- The 2025 - 2026 school calendar meets provincial minimum requirements for instructional hours and allows for unexpected school closures.

C. Negotiation Update

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encouraging Board attendance at engagement events. An updated schedule will be sent to the Board once the engagement plan is finalized. - Need to schedule meetings with Ermineskin and Montana Chief and Council before the end of June. - Negotiation training will be held at Village Creek Country Inn at Pigeon Lake.

D. Board Professional Development (PD) Plan

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggestions for Board PD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sweat - Land based training. Interest in what are other Nation doing. - CASS National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education - Indspire Nation gathering - Think Indigenous - First Nation Education Conference - WIPCE. Accepting abstracts until April 30. - Will develop an anticipated budget for the proposed PD for decision in June. - Consider a strategic planning session for the remainder of the 2024 - 2025 PD. Include lessons learned for incoming Board members in 2026.

6. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

E. Update from Circle of Elders

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	John Nepoose, Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elders are in the schools for the month of April. - Delivered sponsorship request letters to the Nations for the Kehtehyak forum. - Add Circle of Elders PD to the May meeting.

F. Update from Circle of Parents

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Azure Johnson, Carmella Cutknife
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High School hosted a brushes and bonding night. Approx 30 people attended. Will be hosting similar events moving forward. - Tracy will be attending the next parent meeting at Mimiw-Sakahikan School to discuss the need for students of grade 7-12 students.

G. Update from Nation Representatives

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Allison Adams-Bull, Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, Debra Strongman-Omeasoo, Elliott Young
DOCUMENTS:	N/A

DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met with Samson Chief and Council on March 18th. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated on student needs and reasons for counselling. - Main concerns for students include suicide ideations, drugs and alcohol, sexual assault and domestic violence. - Students are getting alcohol in the Samson townsite. - Will be building partnerships with Community Wellness and other Nation programs. - Tracy will follow up with the Safe Community Task Force to address the issue of students getting alcohol in the townsite. - Met with Louis Bull Chief and Council on March 31st. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendation for a mentorship program. - Request for information on the impacts on student services as a result of Louis Bull pulling out of MHS. - Reviewed Kehtehyak and Oskayak conferences. - Discussed the expiration of the agreement and benefits of MESC. - Encouraged to direct parents with concerns and complaints to Allison and Tracy. - Will meet with them again in September. - Negotiation management team is working with consultants to prepare a presentation to address benefits of MESC and comparison to having a separate education authority. - Topic of pulling out of MESC can be explored by the Ownership Linkage Committee, ultimately would be a Board discussion. - Concerns from each Nation about not having capital projects in their Nation. - Ermineskin and Montana Nation reps will request a leadership meeting before June.
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7. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE

A. GP-6: Board Committee Principles - Direct Inspection	
TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno and Jenn Nepoose
DOCUMENTS:	"Direct Inspection Worksheet (GP-6.04.2025)"
DECISION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy and Governance Awareness: Board members feel they are regularly reminded—through Board meetings and emails—of their governance limitations and the importance of adhering to policy to avoid unintended consequences. - Committee Operations and Accountability: Most committees are seen as following their Terms of Reference (TOR), supported effectively by MESC staff who help keep the work on track. However, concerns were raised about the Negotiation Committee, which appears to operate with more autonomy and seeks Board approval after the fact, rather than engaging in collaborative decision-making. - Respect for Operational Boundaries: Respondents affirmed that Board members generally refrain from exerting authority over MESC staff, maintaining the appropriate governance-operational boundary.

- Meeting Regularity: While most committees are functioning well, there are indications that some committees are not meeting as consistently as expected.
- Recommendations for improving the application of this policy:
 - Schedule special Board meetings for major decisions, require in depth discussion, or have budgetary implications.
 - Materials for Board meetings received in advance.
 - Summary of decisions that will be presented at the Board meeting in advance.
- Discussion on issue of negotiation task force being provided additional honorarium.

B. GP-7: Board Committee Structure - Content Review

TIME: 5 min

PRESENTER: Dr. Shauna Bruno

DOCUMENTS: “

DECISION: - Policy still relevant, no changes.

C. EL-1: Treatment of Students and Parents - Content Review

TIME: 5 min

PRESENTER: Dr. Shauna Bruno

DOCUMENTS: “

DECISION: - Policy still relevant, no changes.

D. EL-1: Treatment of Students and Parents - Monitoring report

TIME: 5 min

PRESENTER: Tracy Swampy-Sylvester

DOCUMENTS: “5. b. BMD-6.pdf”

DISCUSSION:

- The Monitoring Report provided reasonable interpretation and adequate evidence of compliance.
- Request for reference to specific policy and procedures in future reports.
- Need clarity on appeal processes and how compliance is measured.